(c) whether they suggested special court for time bound trial; and

(d) what was the Central and State Government's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) No Central team was deputed in connection with this incident.

Though 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the Central Government has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention to the improvement of administration of Criminal Justice System and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections of the society. Financial assistance is also provided to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure.

**ULFA's Links with Pak's Dhaka Mission**

3999. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reported statement appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 8th April, 2000 that his Government has enough proof that the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka has positive links with ULFA leadership in Assam for promoting fundamentalism and militancy among the local Muslim youths in the State;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the problem of insurgency and militancy in North-Eastern Region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) Evidence collected from the confessional statements of arrested ULFA leaders/ISI agents and other documents does indicate that Pak's Dhaka mission has links with ULFA. The Government has taken up this matter with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has assured that it will not allow negative elements to use its terriotry for activities prejudicial to the interest of India.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to combat militancy in the North East include, *inter alia*, deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army,

improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces, modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas'and notification of the major so insurgent groups as "unlawful associations". The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

**Law and Order in South Assam**

4000. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that law and order situation in Barak valley in South Assam more particularly in Cachar district has become worst;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Assam Government have completely failed to restore peace;

(c) what action Central Government propose to take for restoration of peace in Barak valley as whole and more particularly in Cachar district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) According to available reports, there has been some increase in violent incidents in Barak valley, more particularly in Cachar district. Government has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam under control. These include, *inter alia,* deployment of Para-military Forces and Army in the State, coordinated action by Army, Para-military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

**Future of Kashmir**

4001. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of the people of Ladakh and Jammu regions as well as those of Panun Kashmir will be included in any future talks proposed